

years of efforts to supposedly improve our emergency response capabilities fell so short. We have devoted countless hours, and tens of billions of taxpayer dollars, to Homeland Security since 9/11. But the American people have not gotten an adequate return for this massive investment.

We must do all we can to help the residents of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama get back on their feet and rebuild their homes and their lives. These Americans will need our resolve and our partnership long after the headlines fade.

In addition it is of the utmost importance that there be a thorough and independent review of the response to Hurricane Katrina in order to identify failures and improve our emergency response system and capabilities. I pledge to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that those responsible for costly failures are held accountable, and to ensure that we learn from this tragedy. We must face up to the searing and shameful images of American families being left to fend for themselves in increasingly desperate circumstances, and we must ensure that we never see such images again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE CATAFALQUE IN CONNECTION WITH MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR THE LATE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 52, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislate clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the crypt beneath the Rotunda of the Capitol in connection with the memorial services to be conducted in the Supreme Court Building for the late honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 52

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Architect of the Capitol is authorized and directed to transfer to the custody of the Supreme Court of the United States the catafalque which is situated in the crypt beneath the Rotunda of the Capitol so that such catafalque may be used in the Supreme Court Building in con-

nection with services to be conducted there for the late honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2005**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the rollcall vote on the Hurricane Katrina resolution, the Senate adjourn until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until 12 noon, with the time equally divided and Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will pay its respects to the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Senators will be able and are encouraged to make statements tomorrow morning relating to the passing of Justice Rehnquist.

We will be voting at noon tomorrow on a resolution which expresses the sense of the Senate. The Senate will recess during the funeral ceremonies as a further mark of respect. As I mentioned earlier, we will begin consideration of the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill on Thursday this week.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE NATION TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we will be voting on a resolution expressing our deep and heartfelt sympathy for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. I know I speak for all when I say that the Senate and the American people stand by the good people of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi who have suffered so deeply and who have lost so much. We are committed to helping them recover and rebuild. Last Thursday night, we passed \$10.5 billion in aid, but this is just the downpayment. There is still much hard work ahead.

One of our most important and pressing duties is to conduct a thorough investigation from top to bottom of the initial emergency response. There is no question that in many places the early emergency response was simply unacceptable. No one who saw the news and the mounting discomfort and despair at the Superdome and the convention center could say otherwise. We need to find out what went wrong and what went right, and we will. We need to find out what we need to do so we are never, ever caught unprepared again.

As I mentioned this morning, I traveled to the gulf coast this weekend, not

as a Senator but as a volunteer physician. A major problem I saw firsthand was a very basic one, one of communications. It is so ironic, and this is why it is so important that we provide the oversight, because Congress has appropriated funds for communications and for the interoperability of communications, but I didn't see any of that on the ground. People worked without functioning radios when I arrived, and literally within that large terminal and one of the large main rooms there, people could not communicate from one side of that room to the other. Doctors and nurses had to use runners to shuttle through the airport. It simply did not make sense. It does not make sense in America.

Many other challenges I saw we will be addressing on the floor of the Senate in the appropriate oversight mechanism. Our full attention at this juncture needs to be directed to saving lives. The President has stated this again and again. Literally as we speak here today, there are people in those second and third floors of homes who have not yet been rescued. Every major city houses the poor and the elderly and the infirm, and every American city is a potential target of a disaster or an attack, either natural or otherwise. There can be no excuses for inaction.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS and Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, the chairman and ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, have announced their oversight hearings. Again, our attention needs to be on saving and sustaining those people who are suffering as we speak, but at the same time we have a mechanism that is underway to begin our very serious, very important responsibility of oversight as to what did not go well and what needs to go much better in the future.

I do want to assure the American people that the Senate is hard at work. We have rolled up our sleeves. We began with the passage of the \$10.5 billion the other night. It is very likely that in very short order, we will have a much larger supplemental come through, maybe within the next several days, on the Senate floor, and it will require yet another supplemental funding bill in the future. We are determined that New Orleans, where I was Saturday and Sunday; or Biloxi, where I was on Sunday; or Mobile, also on Sunday—really that entire coast—will recover and that we will rebuild in a way that is bigger and better and stronger. That is the future to which we are committed.

We have many hurdles to face in the meantime, and we will address those aggressively. We faced urban disasters in our history. As former Speaker Gingrich said in the last couple of days: A large chunk of Chicago was burned all the way to the ground, and it came back stronger than ever. He also mentioned San Francisco, leveled by an earthquake only to reemerge a